

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2054
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0417

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: REPORTED RESIGNATION OF TUSCAN REGIONAL PRESIDENT
LELIO LAGORIO

REF: MEMCON WRIGHT/CHECCUCCI MAY 30, 1978 (NOTAL)

1. RUMORS THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SOME TIME THAT TUSCAN
REGIONAL PRESIDENT LELIO LAGORIO (PSI) WOULD RESIGN HIS

POSITION TO TAKE IMPORTANT POST IN PSI ORGANIZATION AT
NATIONAL LEVEL HAVE NOW BEEN ELEVATED TO FRONT PAGE STORY IN
LOCAL PRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS LAGORIO WILL RESIGN AS
REGIONAL PRESIDENT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO BECOME DIRECTOR
OF NATIONAL PSI OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR QUOTE PROBLEMS OF
STATE UNQUOTE. FROM PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THIS RATHER BROAD AND VAGUE QUOTE JOB DESCRIPTION UNQUOTE
WILL PUT LAGORIO IN CHARGE OF PSI RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE POLICE, THE COURTS AND MILITARY
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SERVICES. IN OTHER WORDS, HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSURING
THAT THE PSI INFLUENCE OVER THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BECOME
MUCH GREATER THAN IN THE PAST. LAGORIO REPORTEDLY ALSO WILL
BE IN CHARGE OF PSI FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PSI POLICY REGARDING
CURRENT DISCUSSIONS ON LATERAN TREATY.

2. BOTH PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES TEND TO AGREE THAT LAGORIO'S

SUCCESSOR AS REGIONAL PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY BE PSI REGIONAL ALDERMAN FOR INDUSTRY AND TOURISM MARIO LEONE.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS DO NOT CONSTITUTE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF LAGORIO'S ASSIGNMENT TO ROME, JOURNALIST WHO WROTE ARTICLE IS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF LAGORIO AND WE ARE SURE THAT THIS TYPE OF FRONT PAGE ARTICLE WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT LAGORIO'S AGREEMENT. AT THIS WRITING, IT REMAINS UNCLEAR JUST WHY STORY WAS BROKEN AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. ONE REASON WE HAVE HEARD IS THAT LAGORIO IS TUSCANY'S CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED LEONE AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. UNFORTUNATELY NEITHER LAGORIO NOR ANYONE CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM TO HAVE EDUCATED OPINION ON THIS MATTER ARE AVAILABLE TO US TODAY TO CHECK ON THIS RATHER HARD TO SWALLOW EXPLANATION OF TIMING OF ARTICLE. MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS ANOTHER STORY WE HAVE HEARD THAT LAGORIO BEING PREPARED FOR MINISTERIAL POST IF AND WHEN PSI ENTERS GOVERNMENT.

4. LAGORIO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO CONSULATE AND HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A VERY SUCCESSFUL THREE-WEEK IVP VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN HE HELD WELL PUBLICIZED PRESS CONFERENCE TO DESCRIBE THE VALUE TO HIM OF THIS VISIT. HE ALSO HOSTED A SMALL DINNER IN FLORENCE ON MAY 22 FOR AMBASSADOR GARDNER TO THANK HIM AND ALL CONCERNED FOR HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

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5. MARIO LEONE IS A WELL-TO-DO SUCCESSFUL TUSCAN BUSINESS-MAN WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO CONSULATE BOTH IN HIS CURRENT POSITION AND IN HIS FORMER POSITION AS VICE-MAYOR OF FLORENCE. GORDON

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